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O'Neill backs Nicaraguan aid ban

Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., said vesterday he supports a bill that would end all covert support for Nicaraguan rebels and expects the House to hold a closed session to discuss the move, strongly opposed by President Reagan.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee tentatively set hearings next week on the bill, approved Tuesday on a straight party line by the House Intelligence Committee, to cut off U.S. aid to the guerrilla forces opposed to the Marxist Sandinista government of Nicaragua.